

Amendments to the Claims:

Cancel claims 10 and 20-23 without prejudice.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-9, 11-19, and 24 (original).

Claims 10 and 20-23 (cancelled).

Text of pending claims

1. (Original) A method of electronic watermarking comprising:  
sampling input signals using an uneven sampling rate.
  
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sampling comprises sampling at a rate such that an average sampling frequency is greater than or equal to twice the highest frequency in the input signals.
  
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sampling comprises sampling using a pseudo-random sampling rate.
  
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sampling rate has an unevenness which is pseudo-random and the unevenness is less than about thirty per cent of the corresponding sampling period.
  
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the input signals are analog input signals, the method further comprising:  
outputting unevenly sampled digital signals.

6. (Original) A method of authentication of candidate data comprising:  
sampling original signals using an uneven sampling rate to produce unevenly sampled  
original signal data; and  
comparing the unevenly sampled original signal data with the candidate data for a degree  
of match.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:  
normalizing the candidate data prior to the comparing; and  
normalizing the unevenly sampled original signal data prior to the comparing.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the comparing comprises  
calculating a mean square difference between the normalized candidate data and the normalized  
unevenly sampled original signal data.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising comparing the  
calculated mean square difference to a threshold value, wherein if the calculated mean square  
difference is greater than the threshold value, the candidate data is determined to be inauthentic.

11. (Original) An apparatus for electronic watermarking, comprising:  
input means for receiving input signals; and  
sampling means for sampling the input signals using an uneven sampling rate.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the sampling means  
comprises:  
an analog-to-digital converter; and  
control means for controlling the analog-to-digital converter to have an uneven  
sampling rate.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the control means  
comprises a pseudo-random number generator.

14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the control means controls the analog-to-digital converter to sample the input signals at a rate such that an average sampling frequency is greater than or equal to twice the highest frequency in the input signals.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the sampling rate has an unevenness which is pseudo-random and the unevenness is less than about thirty per cent of the corresponding sampling period.

16. (Original) An apparatus for authentication of candidate data comprising:  
sampling means for sampling original signals using an uneven sampling rate to produce unevenly sampled original signal data; and  
comparing means for comparing the unevenly sampled original signal data with the candidate data for a degree of match.

17. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:  
first normalizing means for normalizing the candidate data and providing normalized candidate data to the comparing means; and  
second normalizing means for normalizing the unevenly sampled original signal data and providing normalized unevenly sampled original signal data to the comparing means.

18. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the comparing means comprises mean square difference calculating means for calculating a mean square difference between the normalized candidate data and the normalized unevenly sampled original signal data

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the comparing means further comprises threshold means for comparing the calculated mean square difference to a threshold value, wherein if the calculated mean square difference is greater than the threshold value, the candidate data is determined to be inauthentic.

24. (Original) A data processing system comprising:  
means for implementing a data watermarking processing; and  
means for implementing a data watermark authentication processing.

---

**Election to Restriction**

Applicant elects Group I, claims 1-9, 11-19, and 24 for further prosecution, and cancels claims 10 and 20-23 without prejudice.